

NEWS RELEASE



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CLASSIC LOUISA MAY ALCOTT NOVEL BECOMES LOCAL HIT MUSICAL

“Little Women: The Musical,” the beloved novel and new Broadway hit, graces the stage of 99th Street summer theatre during this, its 31st season. All of your favorite Alcott characters come alive to portray the touching story of a family growing together, this time in perfect harmony. The performances will run July 23, 24, & 25 at 8PM in the Mother McAuley Auditorium at 3737 W. 99th Street.

“Little Women: The Musical” follows the trials and triumphs of struggling author, Jo March, played by Erin Haynes. Surrounded by her family, Jo finds the basis for her imaginative tales in their day to day adventures. Her sisters prove to be her

greatest muses: her eldest sister, Meg, played by Jenn Rooney, inspires characters both demure and timid; Beth, played by Megan Walsh of Oak Lawn, brings the sweet and compassionate; and the youngest sister Amy, played by Stephanie Seweryn of Chicago Ridge, adds motivation for characters of a rambunctious and wily nature. Together the girls grow into women with the help of their loving mother, Marmee, played by Peg



(clockwise from left) Megan Walsh as Beth, Erin Haynes as Jo, Jenn Rooney as Meg, and Stephanie Seweryn as Amy

Mooney of Oak Lawn. Also added to the girls' lives is the presence of the strict, outspoken, Aunt March, played by Mary Kooy Pniewski. Betty Kort of Beverly plays boarding house secretary, Mrs. Kirk.

Of course a group of "Little Women" must also include the men in their lives. The boy next door, Laurie, played by Ben Avci, becomes almost like a brother to the girls, acting many times as their hero and confidant. His grandfather, Mr. Laurence, played by Ron Buscemi of Evergreen Park, scares the girls with his harshness, but soon becomes a father figure. Also involved are the handsome scholars John Brooke, played by Kevin Buscemi of Evergreen Park, and Professor Bhaer, played by Scott Sowinski.

As we follow the life stories of the March family and their friends, we are also brought into the imaginative fictional world of Jo's stories with Molly Sheehan of Beverly as the fair Clarissa, Brian Walsh as the heroic Rodrigo, and Kurt Reister as the evil Braxton.

The versatile ensemble completes this treasured tale transitioning from trolls, hags and monks to skating children to sophisticated ball room dancers. The ensemble includes Sarah Augustinas, Brittany Bollito, John Bryar, Matt Berglund, Brian Fitzgibbons, June Donner, Louis B. Edano, Tim Jones, Kathleen Katsikeas, Max Kingsbury, Tony Levine, Jimmy Luchetta, Brian Mallon, Christina Miller, Rick Salazar, Nick Scully, Rebecca Seweryn and Melissa Trantacoste.

The 99th Street Summer Theatre Festival production is directed by Patricia Haynes. This show's lively score is directed by Pat Mooney, assisted by Nicole Simental. The set design is under the supervision of Josie Blough, advised by Donna Rose Thomas and lighting designed by Colleen Thomas.

Tickets to "Little Women: The Musical" (\$16 adults, \$14 senior citizens, \$12 children) may be purchased by phone at 773-881-6512 with a Visa or MasterCard or in person at the Mother McAuley Auditorium. For information on individual or group ticket sales call 773-881-6512.

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